

Collection #
M 1306

CONTEMPORARY CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS COLLECTION ADDITION, CA. 1894–2000

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Processed by

Alysha Zemanek
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 cold storage photo folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1894–2000

PROVENANCE: Mary Jane and Howard R. Meeker Jr., Carmel, IN; December 1999, December 2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 1054 Contemporary Club of Indianapolis Records; M 1248 Contemporary Club of Indianapolis Collection Addition

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1997.0614, 2000.0206, 2004.0057

NOTES: Please call ahead to view photographs from cold storage.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Contemporary Club of Indianapolis was organized at the home of May Wright and Theodore Sewall on June 27, 1890. The purpose of the Club is both for socializing and for intellectual engagement, and membership is open to both men and women equally. Before the Contemporary Club, the only way women would get to engage with high profile speakers was on Ladies Night at the Literary Club. The Club invites speakers and entertainers from a variety of backgrounds and areas of interest/study to put on a program for them. The Club has been informed and entertained by such notables as Woodrow Wilson, Booker T. Washington, Claude Rains, Henry James, and Gertrude Stein.

In the early days of the Club, meetings were held at the Propylaeum, but in later years, the Club held meetings and programs at various venues throughout the city. Meetings and programs are held anywhere from four to six times a year and many times allowed for a dinner hour and a social hour in which members could engage with the speaker and each other. In the beginning, membership in the Club was capped at 200 people, but membership was allowed to 600 people.

Sources:

Gurevitz, Maire. Collection guide. M 1054 Contemporary Club of Indianapolis Records, 1974–2006. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide completed June 2013)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection addition contains records and materials related to the Contemporary Club of Indianapolis from its early years in the 1890s to 2000. Included are agendas, meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, club histories, membership and officer lists, speeches, program materials, news clippings, and photos of events and guest speakers.

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Agendas and meeting minutes, 1976–79; 1993–95

Certificate of incorporation, club constitution, and revised articles, 1976; 1997; n.d.

Club history booklets, 1940; 1965

Business and general correspondence, 1961–97

Membership correspondence, 1996–97

Membership and officer lists, 1894–2000

Speeches and presentations, 1940; 1981–97

Event programs and flyers, 1940–97; n.d.

News and magazine clippings, 1897–1989; n.d.

Miscellaneous reports, rental and order agreements, and notes, 1990–98; n.d.

Event photos and guest speaker headshots, 1979–89; n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Visual Collections:
Cold Storage
Photographs,
Folder 1